

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 0017 with the following replacement paragraph.

[0017] A terminal position assurance (TPA) member 170 is mounted over the top of contacts 140 and the front end 131 of inner shell 130. The TPA member 170 includes a top wall 176 and side walls 174 that extend over the upper side walls 135 of inner shell 130 so that gel material 150 is sandwiched between the lower surface 178 of the TPA member upper wall 176 and the upper ends of contacts 140 and inner shell ~~upper~~ front ends 131. The TPA member 170 is seated on the shoulder 139 of inner shell 130 and assures that mating connectors are properly aligned and positioned before the mating operation is performed. The TPA member 170 includes beveled openings 172 aligned with contacts 140 below gel material 150. In one embodiment, gel material 150 includes self sealing slits aligned with openings 172 in TPA 170. In an alternative embodiment, the gel material 150 could employ a more fully-cured, rubber-like “skin” on the surfaces. The skin would have less “tack” than the inner portion of the gel material 150. This skin would serve to reduce the adherence of small contaminants to the gel material 150 in the areas exposed through openings 172.